

For all of these reasons, I am pleased to support the Homeland Security appropriations bill today and I am encouraged that we are doing what we can to protect our Nation.

FEMA AND FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I commend the leadership of the chairman on this important disaster relief bill.

In the context of this Federal Emergency Management Agency FEMA disaster assistance bill, I want to express my appreciation for recent FEMA policy updates for disaster relief to faith-based organizations. These ongoing challenges and tragedies provide FEMA an opportunity to make certain that they are implementing these policies in a manner consistent with the President's policy which includes faith-based organizations among those community-based organizations helping on an equal basis in these hurting communities.

On December 12, 2002, President Bush announced, "I have directed specific action in several Federal agencies with a history of discrimination against faith-based groups. FEMA will revise its policy on emergency relief so that religious nonprofit groups can qualify for assistance after disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes." FEMA acted quickly to serve eligible religious groups, issuing policy statement 9521.3 concerning Private Non-Profit Facility Eligibility to provide guidance in delivering future grant awards.

In the words of the former FEMA Director Joe Albaugh, "Disasters don't discriminate, and neither should our response to them." The administration recognized this important principle in the case of the Seattle Hebrew Academy. The academy's main building was rendered unfit after it was damaged in the Nisqually earthquake of 2001, but the academy's first application for FEMA relief was denied. After the Academy entered a legal challenge, the Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice entered an opinion on September 22, 2002, which stated, in referring to FEMA's original denial, "We believe that the Acting Regional Director's reading of 44 C.F.R. section 206.221 (e) is not the better interpretation of that regulation." This is a common-sense policy of fair treatment.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I commend the Senator from Pennsylvania for highlighting the importance of community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations, in disaster assistance efforts. I also concur that religious organizations should not be excluded when they are victims of disasters. I concur with the Senator that FEMA should continue to see that faith-based organizations are treated fairly in accordance with the President's policy and for the benefit of those in need in times of crisis.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator SPECTER, I wish to express my appreciation to Senator COCHRAN, chairman of the Homeland

Security Appropriations Subcommittee, for bringing out of conference \$25 million in assistance for 501(c)(3) nonprofits "determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be at high-risk of international terrorist attack." I know this was difficult to achieve because the House bill did not have a similar item and due to the loss of the customs users fees as a funding mechanism for our Senate provision.

There are a number of compelling reasons for dedicating homeland security funds to nonprofits. First, nonprofits provide vital health, social, community, educational, cultural, and other services to millions of Americans every day. Second, if nonprofits are forced to divert funds to cover the entire cost of security measures, those funds will deplete resources for vital human services, including capacity to respond to disasters. Third, intelligence reports and the 9-11 Commission Report indicate some nonprofits are among the most vulnerable, highest risk institutions. Fourth, nonprofit institutions of all types serve as gathering places for millions of American citizens every day of the year, and finally the security needs of the nonprofit sector have been largely unmet.

This assistance is intended for basic security enhancements to protect American citizens from car bombs and other lethal terrorist attacks. This assistance is not intended for facility construction; rather, it is intended to be used for installation of equipment such as concrete barriers, blast-proof doors, Mylar window coatings, security fences and hardened parking lot gates, as well as associated training.

The Director of Central Intelligence has stated that al-Qaeda has turned its attention to "soft targets." Terrorists' willingness to attack soft targets of all types has been made readily apparent with attacks in the United States, England, Canada, Israel, Spain, Germany, Iraq, Tunisia, Kenya, Morocco, Egypt, and Turkey, including an international Red Cross building, synagogues, schools, and cultural and community centers.

It is my intention, as sponsor with Senator SPECTER of the Senate provision, that the Secretary should issue regulations to ensure that such funds are disbursed in a manner that ensures basic assistance for the maximum number of institutions and are dedicated to protecting Americans operating or utilizing nonprofits from international terrorist attacks and are not used for other purposes.

Once again, I commend the distinguished subcommittee chairman, my good friend Senator COCHRAN, and my distinguished colleague Senator SPECTER, on their assistance with this vital initiative to protect our Nation's nonprofits.

The question is on agreeing to the conference report to accompany H.R. 4567.

The conference report was agreed to.

TO REAUTHORIZE THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate having received from the House a message, the Senate agrees to a request for a conference on H.R. 1350, the Senate agrees to the request for a conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, and the Chair appoints the following as conferees on the part of the Senate.

The Presiding Officer (Mr. COLEMAN) appointed Mr. GREGG, Mr. FRIST, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOND, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mrs. CLINTON conferees on the part of the Senate.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, prior to his beginning a speech, it is my understanding the two leaders have some business they want to conduct.

Following their conducting of business, I ask on the Democratic side Senator DODD be recognized for 20 minutes; following that, on our side, Senator KENNEDY for 30 minutes, Senator DURBIN for 20 minutes, Senator JEFFORDS for 8 minutes, Senator SARBANES for 20 minutes, Senator HARKIN for 45 minutes. He has 2 hours under the order that has been entered, but he said he would use part of that time at a later time today. Senator CANTWELL for 8 minutes and Senator HARKIN for 1 hour and 15 minutes. We correct that. After Senator KENNEDY, Senator FEINSTEIN be recognized for 10 minutes.

Senator KYL has already worked out something with Senator DODD that he would be recognized for up to 3 minutes prior to Senator DODD. The Republicans, of course, would be interspersed if they are here and they want to take time and we would go back and forth.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with the Democratic leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES TO S. 2845

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to discuss with the Democratic leader the appointment of conferees to S. 2845, the 9/11 legislation.

I am so proud of the Senate's work on this legislation as anything we have done these past 2 years. Chairman COLLINS, ranking member LIEBERMAN, and all Senators did a superb job in moving this bill forward.